

REMARKS

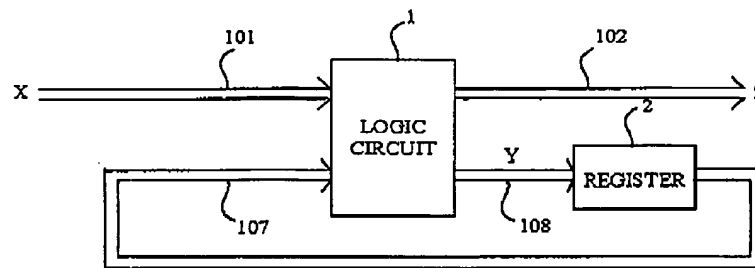
The Office Action of May 12, 2004 has been carefully considered.
Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kasuya in view of Patel and further in view of Hamzaoglu. The rejection states in part:

The test circuit [of Kasuya], in a test mode, applies a first test sample in a first test clock cycle to the input of the combination al logic system of the integrated circuit, and receives the output signal in a buffer memory, and which feeds back this output signal as a second test sample in a second test clock cycle to the input of the combination logic system and again receives the output signal of the combinational logic system in the buffer memory, the buffer circuit being constituted as a shift register. (References omitted.)

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Referring to the cover figure of Kasuya, the portion of the circuit illustrated below is a conventional sequential logic circuit:



In a conventional sequential logic circuit of this type, inputs X to the logic circuit 1 together with the previous output Y of the logic circuit 1 determine the next outputs Y, Z of the logic circuit 1. Feedback of the outputs Y is part of the normal operation of the sequential logic circuit, or "state machine."

The remainder of the circuit not illustrated above is provided for testing purposes.


In test mode, however, the feedback path from the register back to the input of the logic circuit is not operative. Note for example Figure 4, illustrating the circuit in its test configuration, and the lack of any feedback from the output of the logic circuit to the input of the logic circuit. Localized feedback may be employed within the signal sequence compressor 204, but this type of feedback is distinct from the feedback claimed as part of the present invention.

It may be seen therefore that Kasuya does not in fact teach what the Office Action describes it as teaching. Nor does it teach or suggest the present invention as claimed.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 3 are believed to patentably define over the cited references.

Dependent claim 2 is also believed to add novel and patentable subject matter to independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-3 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: May 29, 2004